

unfortunate that some of the definitions are either inadequate or misleading, e. g., "*Gastropoda*, a class of univalve mollusks, the lower surface of whose belly forms the foot." Many Gastropods have no shells, and in some the foot (*Vermetus*, *Xenophora*, *Strombus*, &c.) cannot be said to form the lower surface of their belly. *Genus* is termed "a subdivision of an Order." This should be family. The explanations given of mantle, Pulmonobranchiata, scar, sinuate, suture, synonym, valve, &c. are extremely crude. A synonym is said to be "a name that has the same meaning as another name"; the suture is "the furrow between the whorls of a univalve"; muscular scars are described as "depressions formed by the attachment of the muscles holding the parts of a bivalve together."

In the index we notice that synonyms are omitted. This, in cases of such old "familiar names" as *Paludina*, *Helix ericetorum*, *Hyalinia Draparnaldi*, *H. glabra*, and *Pupa umbilicata*, is to be regretted.

In conclusion, whilst pointing out certain inaccuracies which mar the work, we do not altogether deny its utility, for, being written by an experienced field-naturalist, it contains much information that will be useful to the collector. The nine original plates are reproduced with slight alterations, and to them have been added two others devoted to slugs and *Pisidia*.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### *Lysactinic*, not *Lissactinic*.

*To the Editors of the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History.'*

GENTLEMEN,—Dr. Gregory has called my attention to a serious and misleading error on p. 14 of my 'Catalogue of British Echinoderms.' In line 12 there occurs in brackets the word *lissactinic*; as is clear from the corresponding word *desmactinic*, five lines lower, I meant to express in one word that condition of Echinoderm organization in which the rays are free from the "calycinal plates." Of course I ought to have written *lysactinic*.

I am totally at a loss to explain how I came to make such an egregious blunder, for it would be both an affectation and an untruth to appeal to the Johnsonian excuse of "sheer ignorance, madam," while the Horatian explanation of Homer's occasional sleepiness is altogether inapplicable: no schoolboy—I do not mean Lord Macaulay's prodigy—in the hottest, sleepest afternoon of all the summer half would ever be caught napping like this. I remember, however, that in the later part of the year 1891 I had my first attack of influenza, and the error was, perhaps, a sequela of that mysterious and enervating affliction.

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